GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4675
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
CATEGORY OF GUTKHA
SUSHILA SAROJ

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that more then 93% brands of Gutkha of the total production are going without date of manufacturing and are carrying the statutory warnings that `chewing pann masala may be injurious to health` and `chewing of tobacco is injurious to health`;

(b) if so, whether the Government includes Gutkha in the category of `Pann Masala` or tobacco;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to attend this issue keeping in view the health of the people;

(e) if so, the time by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (f) As per the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules,(PFA) 1955, the month and year in which the food product is manufactured or prepacked is essential to be printed on the labels of all food products including Gutkha. No specific instance of violation of above provision has been brought to the notice of Government.

Gutkha is not covered under the standard of Pan Masala as laid down under the PFA Rules, 1955.However Pan Masala containing Chewing Tobacco is marketed as Gutkha, as a proprietary product.

The PFA Rules 1955, provide for giving statutory warning on the label of chewing tobacco including Gutkha regarding its injuriousness to health.

The Government has proposed that the warning declaration should be in bilingual and more conspicuous. The draft rules seeking to amend the PFA Rules 1955 have been notified on 7.2.2001.